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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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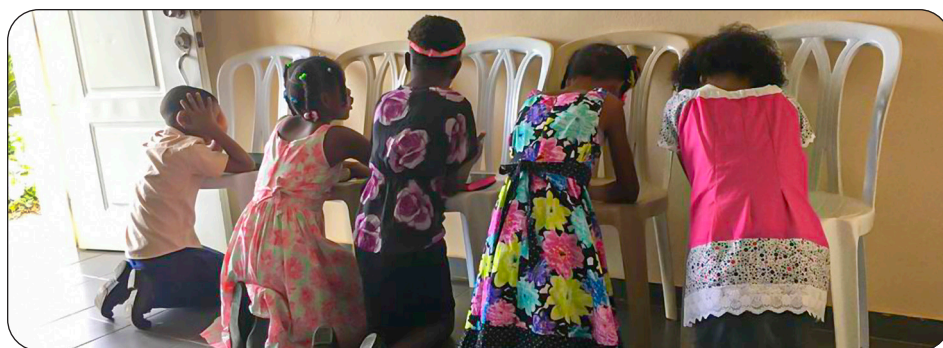
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ICC Global Coronavirus Update

How the Pandemic is Affecting ICC's Worldwide Family

"The cost of living is getting higher and higher, and we don't know if that will go down when this is over. We just don't know where this will end up. We just trust in the love and mercy of God and the generosity of the sponsors and other donors."

Joel Carpio, Director of Los Pinos Children's Village



In times of trouble, such as a global pandemic, ICC depends on your support more than ever. Please join the children in prayer for the safety and health of the villages.

Joel Carpio, in his statement above, summarizes how many of us feel at this moment of uncertainty. While we don't know where things will end up, we do trust in God's love and mercy as we navigate the future together.

Our faith in God's protection and love is unwavering, and we trust Him to guide and provide. We see Him continuing to work through ICC family members like you to help sustain the lives of "His kids" during this worldwide crisis. Thank you so very much for all you have done and continue to do to provide for the needs of the children!

You may not realize it, but ICC is truly an international family. Yes, there are the children's villages in places like Guatemala, India and the DR Congo. But you may not realize that there are also ICC family members who support the children in places like England, the Netherlands, Belgium and Iceland. The combined

generosity of our multinational ICC family enables this mission to go forward. As you might expect, the global Covid-19 crisis is impacting our ICC family around the world. Here is brief update on what is happening:

Support Partners

Most of the countries where ICC has financial supporters have experienced social-distancing and lockdowns as they race to keep ahead of the virus. However, citizens in each country are finding ways to show their unique creativity, appreciation and generosity in this time of crisis.

In **Iceland**, residents of the capital area are placing teddy bears in their windows as part of a new game for children. The objective? Simply spot the stuffed animals. For those kids unable to be with their friends or go about their normal activities, it's a great way to have some fun while also getting some fresh air outside—and

keeping the social distance.

In **England**, every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. everyone stands on their doorstep to clap to say thanks for their health care workers. One of our ICC children from India is a nurse. She immigrated to the UK a few years ago and is now working on the front lines in the battle against the virus. So, the citizens in the UK in a small way are showing their appreciation for one of "His kids."

A volunteer in the **Netherlands** sells second hand items. He now places things for purchase in a van and watches from his window as customers come by to pick them up and leave their money. As they do, he waves from his window.

A church in **Belgium** has decided to provide a donation of 750 Euros (about \$800) for an ICC project that needs it the most.

Continued on page 4

The Heart of a Mother

A glimpse at the lives of mothers at the Patmos Children's Village.

In the March Que Pasa, you may recall reading about Georime, an ICC house mother. From a childhood of difficulties to a life of love, Georime is proof of the ongoing blessing and impact of your support! Here is her story.

Georime never knew her parents. They died in a rebel insurgence when she was only six-months old. During the 1990s and early 2000s, war tormented the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many children received an inheritance of trauma from the ongoing insurgent warfare. Georime felt this trauma deeply. She longed for what she had never known: a family.

A long period of suffering marked Georime's earliest memories. She and sixteen other orphans were placed into the care of nuns. The nuns did not have the resources to care for those suffering children. They desperately needed help.

As the war continued, it became increasingly dangerous to travel. Word spread of a place where orphans could receive care, but the trip would be difficult. Georime gathered her belongings, which all fit into one small plastic bag. She only owned a single set of clothes.

They first traveled to Goma. Many children got sick on the road, but they arrived safely, then went on to the island of Idjwi in Lake Kivu. This special spot of land had been purchased as a haven for children. No war or fighting had ever taken place on that island. There, a new ICC Children's Village would be built.

Georime was one of the first children to live at Patmos Children's Village. Houses were built where mothers and fathers could care for children as a loving family. Each



Georime, pictured left in 2005, was one of the first children to arrive at ICC Congo. Because of your support, she is now a compassionate ICC house mother, pictured right in 2020.

day the children received food and physical care. They attended school and worship services.

As Georime grew up, many of her ICC siblings attended college or work training, but nothing seemed to be a good fit for her. One thing was certain, though. Georime always enjoyed helping her house mother with the children in the home. She loved the children and the children loved her.

"In honor of ICC house mothers, please consider giving a special Mother's Day gift to help them provide for the ongoing needs of the children."

When Georime married, the Patmos family supported her with excitement. Georime realized that even though she never knew her parents, she had a true family at the Patmos Children's Village.

Years passed, and then in 2013 Georime decided to become a

house parent with her husband at Patmos Children's Village. She is now providing love and care to children who need it the most.

"Since I started working, I have been so happy to care for children," Says Georime. "I know that I am reciprocating the kindness I was treated with since childhood. I remain thankful to the sponsors who helped me up to maturity. You have been my savior as Jesus has been our Savior to all of us. My thanks go straight to God for his protection and care."

Georime is just one of many ICC mothers around the world who go above and beyond to care for hurt and healing children. Because of your support, the children are loved deeply by house mothers who treat them as their own biological family.

As the effects of a global pandemic are still abundant, there is an added stress on all mothers to keep their children safe and loved. At the writing of this article, none of our children or staff have been infected with Covid-19. Every measure is being taken to keep it that way. There is much uncertainty in the world, but ICC is blessed to celebrate our wonderful mothers.

The Heart of a Mother

A glimpse at the lives of mothers at the Patmos Children's Village.

“The work we are doing is not an easy task but we pray that God gives us strength, courage and love for the children.”

Tebeya Nabamenyere Faida



Thanks to your generosity, consistent care for the children is possible. Tebeya has been a house mother for 18 years.

ICC house mothers are hard working women with wonderful hearts of love. Their work is not easy. They prepare food, clean, help children with daily difficulties, and much more. They also teach the children to love Jesus. God is working to bless the children through these mothers!



ICC house mothers lovingly and patiently care for children that have experienced traumatic circumstances. Your support makes this important work possible! Pictured from left to right, house mothers Maniraguha, Alice, and Uwimana hold their ICC children.



Peruth, surrounded by Patmos children, is a "mother" to the house mothers. As Children's Services Director at Patmos, she supports the mothers in their care of the children. Your support makes this important work possible.

“I praise God who made it possible for me to help these children.”

Uwimana Francine

Give an ICC Mother a Big Smile this Mother's Day!

This Mother's Day, many of us are shopping online to find gifts for the mothers in our lives. If you are an Amazon user, you can support ICC when you make purchases. Go to smile.amazon.com and choose International Children's Care, Inc as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. Thank you! Every dollar counts!

ICC Global Coronavirus Update Continued

Dominican Republic Las Palmas Children's Village

Mario Lora, Business Manager at Las Palmas wrote and said that "At the moment, regarding our situation, everything is going with a certain normalcy. We are following the protective rules which have been suggested by the World Health Organization, and we are respecting the measures implemented by the government.

"For now, thank God, there have not been any of our children or personnel who have had symptoms of the virus, nor, as far as we know, in our community...What impact will this have on us, even if we are not touched by the virus? We believe God will protect us. We are sure of that."

Guatemala

Los Pinos Children's Village

Los Pinos director, Joel Carpio, reports that, "Thank God, we are fine. The flu that we were suffering has disappeared. The kids are in class. Almost all of the campus activities continue functioning...We have a good donation of food at the City Center, and we are trying to see how we can go and get it. So far, we have not lacked anything, thank God."

However, the ICAP secondary school that ICC operates next door is facing stiff challenges. Marissa Cabrera, ICAP director, sent the following message. "The situation is not very promising for the coming months. It could be that the parents at some moment stop paying the complete tuition because of the students not being in the dorm, and because of the financial situation that many are facing...May God bless us and help us to be wise and prudent in the decisions we make for the operations of ICAP.

India: DEWS Sweet Home

Susan Moturi, Sweet Home director, indicates that businesses in the community are restricted. One challenge is that they are only allowed to leave campus to do shopping and other errands from between 6:00-9:00 a.m. However, banks don't open until 10:30 a.m. and no one is allowed outside after 9:00 a.m.

Only one person can shop for supplies from each family, and there are marked distances that must be maintained between people. They used to purchase food and supplies on a weekly basis but now are trying to stock up for two weeks. This is at a time when, like many of us experience, the stores run out of items quickly.

Medical care for the children is also a challenge as doctors are forbidden from seeing patients or prescribe medication. One of our new children at Sweet Home required medical attention and Susan had to search for a doctor who was willing to provide care.

Colombia

Rosibel, our administrator in Colombia, sent a financial report along with this initial paragraph: "May God bless and protect you along with your families in this time of world crisis. My country has all of us in quarantine which has been getting wider little by little. Because of my age, I am not allowed to leave my house under any circumstances."

El Salvador

Hogar Escuela Adventista (HEA)

Sandra, HEA children's services director, sent the following: "In a very difficult time, filled with uncertainty and fears, we hold onto Jesus, not with one hand, but with both, and with all our soul. Each morning, as we have been

doing since last year, we meet with the mothers and aunts to seek our Savior's face and take to Him our needs and thank Him for all His answers, His love and protection. We also include you and all the ICC personnel, including sponsors and donors. The students are studying in the office... We started buying grains, rice, milk and other needed foods. Now we are closed in and protected."

.....
ICC's worldwide family continues to be "closed in and protected" by our loving heavenly Father. It's such a blessing that most of our children's villages are in country settings far from virus hotspots. This provides extra protection for our children, especially during this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Although there is uncertainty about what lies ahead, we continue to trust in the love and mercy of God and appreciate the outpouring of generosity from ICC family members like YOU. Thank you for all you do for "His kids!"



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